

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09036 142245Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /126 W
-----061137 142304Z /13

P 141853Z JUN 78
FM USMISSIDN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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USMTN
ACTION STR PASS ELECTRICALLY FOR HEISE
STR PASS CODEL

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, FI
SUBJECT: U.S./FINLAND MEETING ON FINNISH TARIFF OFFER

1. U.S. MTN DEL (BALE, ST. MAXENS) MET WITH FINNISH DEL,
LED BY AMB. KAARLEHTO, FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF FINNISH
INDUSTRIAL TARIFF OFFER. U.S. DEL NOTED THAT PROBLEMS
WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN CORRELATING OFFER WITH FINNISH
TARIFF SCHEDULES HAVE RENDERED CERTAIN EVALUATIONS (E.G.,
DEPTH OF CUT ANALYSES) IMPOSSIBLE. FINNS AGREED THIS WAS
MAJOR PROBLEM AND INDICATED THEY HAVE MADE NO SUCH ANALYSES
OTHER THAN THAT EXCEPTIONS COVER 9.2 PERCENT OF FINNISH
MFN IMPORTS.

2. FINNISH DEL GAVE CLEAR INDICATION THAT THERE WAS ROOM
FOR IMPROVEMENT IN ITS OFFER AND THAT AN EFFORT WOULD BE
MADE TO ACCOMMODATE U.S. REQUESTS, BUT THAT RECIPROCITY
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ISSUE RE JAPAN WOULD LIMIT FLEXIBILITY ON SEVERAL ITEMS.
IN RESPONSE TO FINNS' QUERY, U.S. DEL INDICATED THAT WE
DID NOT KNOW WHEN U.S. REQUEST LIST FOR FINLAND (OR OTHER
NORDIC COUNTRIES) WOULD BE READY, BUT WE HOPED IT WOULD BE
SOON. (NOTE: FINNISH DEL PROMISED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE
IN HELPING US LOCATE U.S. REQUEST ITEMS IN FINNISH OFFER.)
REGARDING ADDITIONAL FINNISH REQUESTS OF U.S., KAARLEHTO

NOTED THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE KEY REQUEST -- THE OLD ISSUE OF ICEBREAKERS.

3. IN DISCUSSING THEIR OFFER, FINLAND MADE MUCH OF A CLAIM THAT THEIR AVERAGE TARIFF FOR IMPORTS FROM U.S. (BASED ON 1976 IMPORTS, INCLUDING DUTY-FREE) WAS 3.1 PERCENT WHICH IS LESS THAN WHAT U.S. POST-OFFER AVERAGE TARIFF WOULD BE FOR IMPORTS FROM FINLAND -- 3.2 PERCENT. U.S. DEL RESPONDED THAT OUR CALCULATIONS SHOW THAT FINNS' GOING-IN AVERAGE TARIFF FOR IMPORTS FROM U.S. WAS 5.0 PERCENT -- NOT 3.1 PERCENT -- WHICH WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN U.S. GOING-IN TARIFF AVERAGE OF 4.9 PERCENT. U.S. DEL FURTHER ARGUED THAT U.S. POST-OFFER AVERAGE TARIFF FOR IMPORTS FROM FINLAND WOULD BE 2.6 PERCENT -- NOT 3.2 PERCENT. AFTER U.S. DEL ELABORATED ON USG POSITION THAT FINNISH OFFER SHOULD MATCH THAT OF U.S. AND THE BEARING THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED DISCREPANCIES WOULD HAVE ON OUR EVALUATION OF FINNISH OFFER, FINNS STATED THAT THEY WOULD CHECK INTO THEIR CALCULATIONS.

4. DRAFTED BY ST. MAXENS. MCDONALD

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